

THE NATIVE AMERICAN.

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NATIVE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

A very large and respectable meeting, composed of native Americans of all parties, was held in the Theatre on Louisiana Avenue, in this city, on Tuesday evening, the 11th July, upon a call of upwards of seven hundred subscribers, when the following proceedings were held:

Mr. Henry M. Morfit was called to the Chair, and Mr. John Wilson appointed Secretary.

Mr. Henry J. Brent addressed the meeting in a handsome, appropriate and energetic manner, setting forth the necessity of a repeal of the naturalization law, to save our institutions from the corruption of foreign countries, and ourselves from the loss of our birthrights, and appealed to the members of the Association to be steadfast and united in their great and holy purpose, and concluded by submitting the following preamble and constitution, which, after temperate discussion, was unanimously adopted, the vote having been taken upon each article separately.

Preamble and Constitution of the Washington City American Society.

Whereas, it is an admitted fact that all Governments are not only capable, but bound by all the principles of national preservation, to govern their affairs by the agency of their own citizens; and we believe the republican form of our Government to be an object of fear and dislike to the advocates of monarchy in Europe, and for that reason, if for none other, in order to preserve our institutions pure and unpolluted, we are imperatively called upon to administer our peculiar system free of all foreign influence and interference. By admitting the stranger indiscriminately to the exercise of those high attributes which constitute the rights of the native born American citizen, we weaken the attachment of the native, and gain naught but the sordid allegiance of the foreigner. The rights of the American, which he holds under the Constitution of the Revolution, and exercised by him as the glorious prerogative of his birth, are calculated to stimulate to action, condense to strength, and cement in sentiment and patriotic sympathy.

Basing, then, the right and duty to confederate on these high truths, we profess no other object than the promotion of our native country in all the walks of private honor, public credit, and national independence, and therefore we maintain the right, in its most extended form, of the native born American, and he only, to exercise the various duties incident to the ramifications of the laws, executive, legislative, or ministerial, from the highest to the lowest post of the Government; and to obtain this great end, we shall advocate the entire repeal of the naturalization law by Congress. Aware that the Constitution forbids, and even if it did not, we have no wish to establish, *ex post facto* laws, the action we seek with regard to the laws of naturalization is intended to act in a prospective character. We shall advocate equal liberty to all who were born equally free; to be so born, constitutes, when connected with moral qualities, in our minds, the aristocracy of human nature. Acting under these generic principles, we further hold that, to be a permanent people, we must be a united one, bound together by sympathies, the result of a common political origin; and to be national, we must cherish the native American sentiment, to the entire and radical exclusion of foreign opinions and doctrines introduced by foreign paupers and European political adventurers. From Kings our gallant forefathers won their liberties—the slaves of Kings shall not win them back again.

Religiously entertaining these sentiments, we as solemnly believe that the day has arrived when the Americans should unite as brothers to sustain the strength and purity of their political institutions. We have reached that critical period foreseen and prophesied by some of the clear-sighted apostles of freedom, when danger threatens from every ship that floats on the ocean to our shores, when every wind that blows wafts the ragged paupers to our cities, bearing in their own persons and characters the elements of degradation and disorder. To prevent these evils, we are now called upon to unite our energies. To fight over this great moral revolution, the shadow of our first revolt of glory, will be the duty of the sons of those wars, and we must go into the combat determined to abide by our country; to preserve her honor free from contagion, and her character as a separate people high and above the engraftment of monarchical despotisms.

ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION.

First. We bind ourselves to co-operate, by all lawful means, with our fellow native citizens in the United States to procure a repeal of the naturalization law.

Second. We will use all proper and reasonable exertions to exclude foreigners from enjoying the emoluments or honors of office, whether under the General or State Governments.

Third. That we will not hold him guiltless of his country's wrongs who, having the power, shall place a foreigner in office while there is a competent native willing to accept.

Fourth. That we will not, in any form or manner, connect ourselves with the general or local policies of the country, nor aid, nor be the means of aiding, the cause of any politician or party whatsoever, but will exclusively advocate, stand to, and be a separate and independent party of native Americans, for the cause of the country, and upon the principles as set forth in the above preamble and these articles.

Fifth. That we will not, in any manner whatever, connect ourselves, or be connected with any religious sect or denomination, leaving every creed to its own strength, and every man untrammelled in his own faith, adhering for ourselves to the sole cause of the natives, the establishment of a national character, and the perpetuity of our institutions, through the means of our own countrymen.

Sixth. That this Association shall be connected with and form a part of such other societies throughout the United States as may now or hereafter be established on the principles of our political creed.

Mr. D. K. Morsell moved to amend the foregoing by adding other articles, which, in like manner, after some amendments, were adopted.

1st. That this Association shall be styled the "Native American Association of the United States."

2d. That the officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Council of Three, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, a Committee on Addresses, and such others as may be required under any by-laws hereafter adopted, and duties which shall be therein defined.

3d. That all the foregoing officers shall be elected by this meeting, to serve for one year, except the Committee on Addresses, which shall be appointed by the President.

4th. That the President, or, in his absence, the Vice President, or, in the absence of both, the Corresponding Secretary, is authorized to convene a meeting of this Association whenever it may be deemed necessary.

On motion, the Chair was directed to appoint a committee of three to nominate officers to serve for one year, as provided by the second amendment of Mr. Morsell.

Whereupon the Chair appointed as such committee the following gentlemen: C. H. W. Wharton, B. K. Morsell, and Henry J. Brent. By nomination the chairman of the meeting was added to the committee. After some time spent by the committee in deliberation, the names of the following gentlemen were returned. (The gentlemen of the committee nominated dissenting from the return of their names.)

Henry M. Morfit, for President.
Roger C. Weightman, for Vice President.
Joseph H. Bradley,
John N. Moulder,
Jacob A. Bender, } For members of the Council.
Henry J. Brent, Corresponding Secretary.
Edward Ingle, Recording Secretary.
C. W. Boteler, Treasurer.

An inquiry having been made whether all the nominees were present or not, and it appearing to be the sense of the meeting that no one not in attendance ought to be nominated, the name of General Weightman was withdrawn, that gentleman having been absent from sickness in his family, and Colonel William Doughty was reported by the committee for Vice President in his place.

Whereupon, the vote having been taken upon the nominations separately, they were unanimously confirmed, to serve in the respective stations assigned them, for one year.

The President then announced the appointment by him of the following members of the Committee on Addresses: Josiah F. Polk, Charles H. W. Wharton, John Wilson.

Mr. Bannerman offered the following resolutions, which were ably and eloquently supported in an address by Richard K. Crallé, and received the unanimous assent of the assembly, followed by deep and enthusiastic applause:

Whereas it is proper that there should be a press in this city, by which the voice of the native Americans may be spread through the land, and their cause and the maintenance of a national character be promoted:

Be it therefore resolved, 1st. That we will use all reasonable endeavors and proper exertions towards the support of such a press.

2d. That in order to engage our fellow-countrymen in this cause, and also to collect the means necessary to establish a permanent and independent press at a central point of the country, the seat of the General Government, the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint committees of two members for each of the cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and other cities of the Union, who shall be fully empowered in the name of this Association to ask and collect donations and subscriptions for the support of such a paper, and be furnished by the President with the necessary credentials for that purpose.

3d. That the said committees be paid such a per diem as may be just and proper, out of the moneys that may at any time be in the hands of the Treasurer, and that the amount of the collection be fixed by the Committee on Addresses.

4th. That the said Committee on Addresses shall prepare an appeal to the native Americans of the United States, setting forth the purposes of this Association, and calling upon all brethren to unite in the holy and patriotic cause, and that such address be placed in the hands of the committees for collections after being approved by the President and Council, and by them presented to such other citizens or associations in the United States as are already or may be formed for purposes similar to those of this Association.

5th. That the Corresponding Secretary be, and he is hereby, authorized to prepare and send addresses to different parts of the Union, inviting the formation of native associations, and their union with us. Such addresses shall, however, be first approved by the President and Council.

On motion, it was Resolved, That our countrymen throughout the United States be, and they are hereby, invited to form associations, to unite with this without delay, and without waiting for a formal request through our officers and committees.

It was Resolved, That the next meetings of this Association shall be held on the 23d of February, and on the 4th of July in each year; also,

That all Editors in the United States, friendly to this cause, be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting.

The following ode, by the late lamented Drake, was sent to the chair, and the reading of it called for. The chairman placed it in the hands of Mr. Henry J. Brent, by whom it was read, and while the address commanded that deep silence which amounts to a sacred solemnity, its effect was announced by a burst of enthusiasm that rang loud and long on the ear.

TO THE AMERICAN FLAG.

When Freedom from her mountain height

Unfurled her standard to the air,

She tore the azure robe of night,

And set the stars of glory there!

She mingled with its gorgeous dyes

The milky buldr of the skies,

And striped its pure celestial white

With streakings from the morning light!

Then, from his mansion in the sun,

She called her eagle banner down,

And gave into his mighty hand

The symbol of her chosen land!

Majestic monarch of the cloud!

Who roarest o'er thy regal form,

To hear the trumpet's tramping loud,

And see the lightning lances driven,

When stride the warriors of the storm,

And rolls the thunder-drum of Heaven!

Child of the sun! to thee is given

To guard the banner of the free—

To hover in the sulphur smoke,

To ward away the battle stroke,

And bid its blessings shine afar,

Like rainbow, on the cloud of war,

—The harbinger of victory!

Flag of the brave! thy folds shall fly,

The sign of hope and triumph high!

When speaks the signal trumpet's tone,

And the long line comes gleaming on,

Forever float that standard sheet!

Where breathes the foe, but falls before us,

With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,

And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us!

Thanks were then unanimously tendered to Mr. Lambert S. Beck, for his ardent and patriotic exertions in procuring subscribers to this Association, and for the untiring zeal and fidelity with which he has executed every duty undertaken by him in the preliminary stages of this Association.

Thanks were also offered to Messrs. Henry J. Brent and Richard K. Crallé, for their eloquent addresses, and to Mr. Richard Peters, of Philadelphia, for the prompt manner in which he granted the use of the Theatre in this city, of which he is the proprietor.

The meeting then adjourned.

PROSPECTUS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN.

Under the auspices of the "Native American Association of the United States," the subscriber proposes to publish a paper with the above title in this city.

The object of this paper will be the repeal of the Naturalization Law, the re-establishment of the declining character of the Native American, and to assert those rights guaranteed to us by the charter of the Revolution, and re-secured by the brilliant victories of the late war.

In stating the objects of this publication, we imply the existence of a party adverse to those interests so established; and the history of latter days, warrants the belief, that such a party is in existence, but it is one which we must meet and combat on the threshold of our country. The political revolution which we witness in England, and which is extending itself gradually but surely over the continent of Europe, is indicative of the restless and daring spirit of the age.

A contest between the aristocratic and democratic principles, in which the crumbling but still gigantic power of hereditary right, is vainly opposing itself to the right of the people, to be heard in the Legislative Councils, in proportion to their numbers: out of these two great parties, the Whigs and Conservatives or Tories, has sprung another powerful body, called Radicals, equally obnoxious to both of the two chief contending parties. The conservatives fear it with a shuddering and overwhelming fear; and the whigs who go for liberal, but not destructive reform, dread this third estate in the realm, because it is composed of the violent elements of society, and disposed to go to the lengths of a revolution or a civil war; consequently, it is the object with both whigs and Tories, to rid the country of this dangerous intermediate party, and no other sure means is offered than to ship them to our shores: Hence the overwhelming arrival of emigrants. It is nonsense to talk of their innate love of the "democratic principle," they are nothing more nor less than the materials with which factious leaders in England had determined to uproot society; overthrow peace and government; track the land with their bloody footsteps, and pollute every consecrated avenue, leading to the edifice of the British laws. In future numbers of this paper, it will be the duty of its conductor to substantiate these charges by proofs derived from English writers, and explain the anomaly of a civilized country deluging a land with which it is at peace, by treaty and interest, with the most terrible means of legal and political destruction.

Leaving their own land trembling with the electric elements of a great political storm, branded by the good and patriotic, destitute of principle, anxious for power as the means of wealth, regardless of the ties of civil restraint, reared in the Lazarhouses of overtaxed and discontented parishes, hated and detested from their youth to their maturity, these vast hordes of modern Huns, place their feet upon our soil, ignorant of our customs—regardless of our laws, and careless of these great uniting qualities that bind us together a united and happy people.

To counteract evil influence arising from whatever cause, the public press has been found at all times, since the glorious era of its discovery, an efficient agent. Its influence goes forth upon the four winds of heaven, and its high voice is heard in the four quarters of the earth. Its eloquence rings in the congregated councils of nations, and it speaks as a Prophet and a Preacher, to the oppressed of all climes. Its influence is felt in proportion to the cause it advocates. All times have tested its power—all causes have acknowledged its aid, and it is now proposed, that the cause of our country and our countrymen, should be supported and made manifest through this great organ.

The times are ripe for our purpose. The system with England to flood this country, has proved of advantage to her taxed landholders—her impoverished parishes—to her government—her aristocracy, and her king. Her ministry have determined to eradicate an evil, not by the enactment of a salutary law, but by the perpetration of an outrage and an injury. The other nations of Europe and the Eastern World, will, and are following her example. India and China will doubtless take the epidemic of emigration, and to secure themselves against the chances of a plague, the filthy victims of the wrath of heaven, will be shipped to our hospitable shores.

To help to stay this desecrating tide, will be our high and chiefest aim, and we appeal to the well judging of all parties, to aid us in the undertaking. In this cause we recognise no minor creed. We look not at the mansion of our President, with an ambition to place any particular individual there; but our eyes will be kept steadfast to the rock of American principles. We will see nothing but the banner of our native land, streaming over the extreme confines of our country, and to our ears will come no other prayer, than the true American worship, around the altar of American liberty.

The minor objects of the paper will be the advancement of our own indigenous literature; and while we are willing and ready to pay the highest tribute of merited respect to the literature of other lands, we will not do it at the expense of a native, whose works are not read, because he has not the stamp of a Murray on his title page, or the approbation of a Blackwood on the outside cover of his volume. We will not carry the war of our principles against the shrines of genius—they are sacred, most peculiarly so to our heart, and are above the changing phases of the political dramas.

Domestic and current intelligence shall be regularly given, in a short and agreeable manner. The proceedings of Congress will be condensed, and sketches of speeches and speakers given during the session, with lively outline of events as they transpire at the Seat of Government. In no instance will party politics be allowed to bias the editorial pen, but men will be treated with impartiality, and opinion with the utmost and most delicate respect.

HENRY J. BRENT.

TO THE NATIVE CITIZENS OF THE U. STATES.

In laying before the public the principles of "The Native American Association of the United States," as set forth in our constitution, we deem it proper to assign the reasons which have induced us to form this Association, and also a few of the arguments which may be adduced in support of those principles, which it is our fixed purpose to disseminate and maintain with all the moral power we possess.

The times are portentous. "We live in a period," says Chancellor Kent, "of uncommon excitement. The spirit of the age is restless, presumptuous, and revolutionary. The rapidly increasing appetite for wealth, the inordinate taste for luxury which it engenders, the vehement spirit of speculation, and the selfish emulation which it creates; the growing contempt for slow and moderate gains; the ardent thirst for pleasure and amusement; the diminishing reverence for the wisdom of the past; the disregard for the lessons of experience and the authority of the magistracy, are so many bad symptoms of the diseased state of the public mind."

We believe that this is owing principally to the increase of foreigners and foreign influence; the introduction and growth of foreign principles, customs, and habits. All this is moving onward, like a flood that gathers additional power as it goes; and in it, we believe, there is danger of our own customs and institutions—yes, and of our independence itself, being merged and lost. Let us look the danger in the face, and avert it while we have the power. "It were better to meet some dangers half way," says Lord Bacon, "though they come nothing near, than to keep too long a watch upon their approaches; for, if a man watch too long, it is odds he will fall asleep." "I verily believe," says Mr. Jefferson, in a letter to John Taylor, "things would go on well with us under an absolute monarchy, while our present character remains, of order, industry, and love of peace, and restrained, as he would be, by the proper spirit of the people. But it is while it remains such, we should provide against the consequences of its deterioration." If it were necessary then, when the character of the people was such as he describes it, to provide against distant evils, how much more important is it now, when the character of the people has suffered deterioration, and the danger is near? Again, the same author remarks, "The time to guard against corruption and tyranny is before they shall have gotten hold on us; it is better to keep the wolf out of the fold, than to trust to drawing his teeth and talons after he has entered."

The leading principle of our Association is to effect the repeal of our Naturalization laws. We will never cease our efforts until that great object shall be accomplished. Our Association is composed of men professing almost all political and religious creeds; we are linked together by one common tie—the love of liberty, and the desire to transmit, unimpaired, to posterity, the sacred institutions which have descended to us from the fathers of our nation's independence.

"In union there is strength." But, in following out this maxim, we follow, in self defence, their example, whose baneful influence it is, in part, our purpose to counteract.

The influence of associations of foreigners over the politics of our country has taught us this lesson: that, if we would correct the growing evils of a foreign emigration, we must meet them on their own ground, and fight them in their own way. We must know our strength, and use it; we must agree in principle, and move together in action. The simultaneous efforts of a hundred men can raise a weight which ten thousand lifting singly cannot move. We therefore exhort, most earnestly, all native Americans every where, to form, without delay, similar associations; for, "in union there is strength."

This Association is composed exclusively of natives; not that we suppose none of our naturalized fellow-citizens are worthy to be united with us; on the contrary, there are many whom we not only respect and esteem for their virtues and love as friends and neighbors, but believe to be true and warm hearted friends of our Government; nevertheless, the ardent temperament of some, and the ever-during and natural predilections of all for their countrymen and native land, would render them perfectly heterogeneous, and consequently unfit, as component parts for such an Association.

It has been the policy of all nations but ours, not to confer on aliens political rights and immunities, in so high a degree as they are enjoyed by natives. Mankind seem to be impressed with the belief that our predilections are so thoroughly interwoven with the land of our birth, and with our early associations, that they never can be completely separated; and, consequently, that a nation's highest favors ought not to be conferred on those whose feelings and affections are so firmly linked with another people.

In Great Britain, naturalization can only be performed by act of Parliament; and, even then, "he is incapable," says Blackstone, "as well as a denizen, of being a member of the Privy Council, or Parliament, holding offices, grants, &c. No bill for naturalization can be received in either House of Parliament, without such disabling clause in it."

We are too apt to forget the value even of the inestimable blessings of nature, so long as we enjoy them without an effort on our part. It cannot, then, be a matter of surprise, that the inestimable blessings of equal rights should be afforded at a rate—as all not wilfully blind must see, that it is in this happy land—too cheap to be appreciated by persons born and brought up in foreign countries, and without the enjoyment of civil or religious liberty.

In the investigation of this subject we are naturally led to inquire into the motives that induced our Government to depart from the settled policy of nations, in this particular.

Our fathers had but just shaken off the yoke of oppression. Many foreigners, with their various abilities, had rendered essential service in the bright achievement. The country was new, of vast extent, and with sparse population. Foreigners were few, and generally orderly and intelligent; and our generous

sires, now basking in the first sunshine of freedom, would gladly have imparted the blessing to the whole world. Thus, "the harvest being great, and the laborers few," and looking with compassion on the enslaved of other lands, they flung wide their doors, and opened an asylum for the oppressed of all nations; and, as an additional inducement, they determined, in the exuberance of their joy, to confer on all who should ask for them, rights and liberties equal with their own.

Whether this policy was strictly consonant with the character of the emigrants of the times in which it was first put in practice, or not, one thing is certain—experience has proven it to be entirely incongruous with the character of the emigrants of the present day. Unlike their predecessors, who demeaned themselves with becoming deference for the laws, and received the favor with grateful emotions, they seem to regard it, not as a favor, but as a right which their fathers have acquired, with their sacrifices, their privations and toil, and with their own blood;—looking upon us as no more than joint heirs with them, because our ancestors who won these blessings were from foreign lands. The Normans and Saxons of the present day would claim, with equal propriety, the rights and immunities of native subjects of the British crown.

Here a brief history of our naturalization laws will, perhaps, not be misplaced:

The first law on the subject was passed in 1790, under which, a residence of only two years in the United States, and testimonials of good character were sufficient. This was very soon discovered to be too easy; and five years after it went into operation it was repealed, and the law of 1795 substituted, requiring a residence of five years in the United States and two in the State where admitted, and an application to be made three years prior to admittance.

Just at this time the affairs of Europe, and our foreign relations, were such as to excite in the father of his country the well grounded fear of foreign influence—against the baneful effects of which he warned his countrymen in his farewell address the succeeding year, (1796,) with the most earnest solicitude:

"Against the insidious wiles," says he, "of foreign influence, (I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens,) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake; since history and experience prove, that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of Republican Government."

To guard against such influence, and to check the growth of a foreign population already becoming troublesome, the law of 1798 was passed, which required the alien to be a resident of the United States for fourteen years, five years a resident of the State where admitted, and an application to be made five years previous to his admittance. But, alas! this salutary law was of short duration. Its enactment had been too long deferred, and the warning voice of Washington had been raised in vain. Already that baneful influence which he deprecated, had pervaded all the ramifications of our country, and the blighting mildew of party spirit had settled upon the councils of the nation.

The hero of Mount Vernon slept with his fathers; and in 1802 this wholesome law of 1798 was repealed, and that of 1795, with slight modifications, was revived. The law of 1802 has undergone but little amendment; none for the better; generally for the worse. And the laws now in force require a residence of only five years in the United States, a single year in the State where admitted, and application to be made but two years previous to admittance.

The despots of Europe who wish for the subversion of our Government, cannot desire greater facilities to effect it than our naturalization laws afford. How easy is it for them to send their minions to become citizens, and by intrigue and management to possess themselves of the public presses, and, in process of time, of all the important posts of authority. That this scheme has been for years in operation, there can be but little doubt.

The reasons for our naturalization laws have ceased. And when the reason ceases, the law also—according to an ancient law maxim—should cease. The emigration from Europe is now enormous. The number of foreigners who arrived in the United States during the year 1820, was 8,470; the number by vessels at the principal ports during 1826, was 76,956, but it must have been near 200,000 throughout the country, including those who came over land from Canada. In the first quarter of 1836, there arrived in New York 2,183 foreign emigrants; and in the first quarter of 1837, 3,700, not including those who landed at Amboy. Thus we see that the increase is truly alarming. But, if such a population were desirable, such inducements now, as our naturalization laws, were unnecessary. We, however, have no longer need of foreign aid to improve our country. It is no longer in its infancy, but has attained to the stature of full and perfect manhood, and we trust, to years of discretion. Time has settled down the fervor of that joy kindled by our nation's birth, into the desire for the solid enjoyment of the blessings of that great and glorious event. The romance of feeling has passed away; the reality remains. Those worthy foreigners who, with the native patriots of the revolution, braced the storm of war, and, with them, shoulder to shoulder, advanced against the common foe, have, also, with them, nearly all passed away, and their children are native Americans, enjoying the rich heritage won by their valor.

We would not, however, close our doors against the oppressed. The cradle of liberty shall receive them. The broadegis of our country shall cover them; and the star-spangled banner shall wrap them in its ample folds. All the protection of our laws shall be extended to them as to ourselves, in person and property. They may come to us as strangers and guests, but not as legislators or rulers.

What, let us for a moment inquire, is the character of the foreigners who emigrate to the United States at the present day? We do not deny that there are good men among them, and who, in a short time, become imbued with American patriotism, but a large majority are paupers, thrown upon public charity the moment they reach our shore. Few of them have sufficient education to read. Many are idle, arrogant, dissolute, and factious; and not a few are criminal convicts and fugitives from justice. Indeed, so many of these latter descriptions have of late years been thrown upon our shores, that our civil and social institutions are in great danger of subversion, and our country of becoming the common receptacle for the refuse of the whole world. Instead of laying aside their nationality, and assim-